



MARY FELZKOWSKI

STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

Testimony on SB 899

Committee on Insurance and Local Business

Senator Mary Felzkowski

12th Senate District

January 18, 2024

Vice Chair Jagler and Fellow Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 899, regarding the local regulation of certain businesses operated by minors.

Throughout our childhood, we are learning. This learning process occurs in school where we are taught history, math, and how to read and write; it occurs at home as our parents and guardians teach us manners and morals; and it occurs in the wider world as we learn about our surroundings. Through all these skills and lessons, we are eventually able to become active members of society to shape and affect the very world we live in.

For many of us, our first experience in learning about business, sales, and finances occurred through the selling of homemade goods, such as lemonade and homemade jewelry. Was the lemonade we made a perfect product? Probably not, but our family and neighbors always seemed to appreciate that refreshing drink on a hot summer day, and there was real satisfaction in making a few bucks for all the hard work. The lessons we learned through these businesses in our youth have helped to shape many of us as we grew up and became adults. Through this bill, we want to give the children of today, who have entrepreneurial spirit, an opportunity to dive head first into the world of business.

This bill, based on legislation successfully enacted in Utah, will encourage young Wisconsinites to start businesses like craft sales without fear of being shut down due to a lack of licenses or permits. It eliminates the requirement for minors under the age of 18 to obtain a permit or license for businesses that are operated occasionally. While businesses such as lemonade stands are currently able to operate on private property under current statute, this bill will expand the opportunities for youth to sell on public property as well, such as at parks. This could especially go a long way for city kids living in apartments and rental housing without access to a front lawn, where a stand would normally be located.

I am grateful to my Assembly author, Rep. Gustafson, and his staff, for their hard work on this legislation. Thank you for your time today, and thank you for your consideration of this bill.



NATE GUSTAFSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 55TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 899

Senate Committee on Insurance and Small Business

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Thank you, Chairwoman Felzkowski, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Small Business, for scheduling this public hearing and providing me with the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 899. I also want to express my appreciation to my colleague, Senator Felzkowski, for her leadership on this bill in the Senate.

This bill will encourage young Wisconsinites to start businesses like craft sales without fear of being shut down due to a lack of paperwork. It eliminates the requirement for minors under the age of 18 to obtain a permit or license for businesses that are operated occasionally. While businesses such as lemonade stands are currently able to operate on private property under current statute, this bill will expand the opportunities for youth to sell on public property as well, such as at parks. The language of this bill is based on legislation championed in states such as Utah.

This legislation is inspired by instances such as in Oregon, where an 11-year-old was prohibited from selling mistletoe at a holiday market in a public park, while at the same time it would have been legal for the young girl to beg for money

I urge you to vote for Senate Bill 899. Your careful attention to this matter is greatly appreciated, and I trust that you will recognize the positive impact Senate Bill 899 can have on our constituents and our state as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration.